CLAIMS:

1) A wireless client device for use in an Internet Protocol (IP) compatible communications network, said client device (MT) being adapted to communicate with said network in accordance with one of a plurality of communications standards (BT, IEEE802.11, GPRS) and to make a selection for connection to said network from among a plurality of network interfaces (AP_{1-3}), said device (MT) being arranged in use to make a said selection automatically and according to a predetermined network interface selection policy (NISP) implemented in said client device.

2) A client device according to claim 1, wherein a said network interface selection policy (NISP) is selected for implementation by user intervention or by said client device (MT) itself from among a predefined set of said selection policies stored therein.

3) A client device (MT) according to claim 1 or claim 2, wherein a said network interface selection policy (NISP) includes a consideration of at least one of location or context awareness, preferably including a mobility parameter indicative of whether a said location or context is dynamic or static and/or an indication of how such information has been gathered.

4) A client device according to any preceding claim, wherein said client device (MT) is adapted to change automatically between network interface selection policies (NISP) under predetermined circumstances, authority to make a said change preferably being provided by a user and/or preferably being notified to a user.

5) A client device according to any preceding claim, wherein said client device (MT) is adapted to test for the availability of one or more of said network interfaces (AP_{1-3}), preferably by periodically performing a scan of available interfaces.

6) A client device according to any preceding claim, wherein said client device (MT) is adapted to pre-connect to a said interface (AP_{1-3}) selected by a said network interface selection policy (NISP), so as to test the availability of said interface in advance of performing a handover thereto from a currently connected interface (AP_{1-3}).

7) A client device according to any preceding claim, wherein said network interfaces are controlled by a multi-standard enabled wireless adaptation layer (M-WAL) implemented in an operating system of said client device (MT).

8) A client device according to any preceding claim, wherein a plurality of said interfaces (AP_{1-3}) are assigned a priority for implementation in a said network interface selection policy (NISP), a said priority preferably being changeable in said client device (MT) and more preferably being dynamically changeable to reflect current status of said interface.

9) A client device according to any preceding claim, wherein said client device (MT) stores information relating to access points (AP_{1-3}) currently available and/or previously visited.

10) A client device according to any preceding claim, wherein said client device (MT) is adapted to monitor network interface (AP_{1-3}) availability substantially continuously and preferably keeps updated a stored list of available said interfaces.

11) A client device according to any preceding claim, wherein a switch between said interfaces (AP_{1-3}) is performed by said client device (MT) in the event that a stronger or higher priority interface becomes available or in the event that a connection to a network (BT, IEEE802.11, GPRS) that uses a current said interface (AP_{1-3}) is lost.

12) A client device according to any preceding claim, wherein said client device (MT) is adapted to check, at least periodically, the availability of one or more access points (AP_{1-3}) neighboring a currently connected access point (AP_{1-3}).

13) A client device according to any preceding claim, wherein a said network interface selection policy (NISP) includes consideration of at least one of usage cost, bandwidth availability, received signal strength, link quality, link availability, signal-to-noise ratio, power consumption or user intervention.

14) A client device according to any preceding claim, wherein a said communications standard comprises one of Ethernet, IEEE802.11a, IEEE802.11b, Bluetooth™, GPRS, and GSM.

15) A method of performing communication in an Internet Protocol (IP) compatible network, the method including:
a) connecting a client device (MT) to said network in accordance with one of a plurality of communications standards (BT, IEEE802.11, GPRS); and
b) changing automatically between said communications standards under predetermined circumstances defined in a network interface selection policy (NISP) implemented in said client device.

16) A computer program product for executing a method according to claim 15 when executed on a computing device.

17) A data carrier having the computer program product of claim 16 encoded thereon as an executable program.